IN UNITY

December 1975

News Magazine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

And the word became flesh and dwelt among us—

A MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

rev. troy perry

"Arise, shine; for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

In this month of December, we who are Christians again celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Almost 2,000 years ago, the Bible tells us, that wise men came to see a baby born in Bethlehem; that shepherds heard the song of angels proclaim *Peace on Earth, good will to people* and that a new star lighted the earth with its radiant beauty from the east. We praise God that the Messiah has come.

Christmas has traditionally been a time of sharing; we give to others as God has given to us. I would hope that each of our churches would plan to send a Christmas offering to two individuals who, at great personal sacrifice, are preaching the Gospel and establishing branches of our Fellowship in Great Britain and Nigeria. I am speaking, of course, of Reverend Tom Bigelow and Reverend Sylvanus Maduka. I would encourage each member of our local congregations to send these brothers Christmas cards and include an offering for their personal use. They need our help. Their addresses are: Reverend Tom Bigelow, 61 Earls Court Square, London SW5 9DG, England ... Reverend Sylvanus Maduka, POB 266, Zaria, Nigeria.

I am happy to report that I had the opportunity to visit Eugene, Oregon, and Dallas, Texas, this last month. Eugene has a new Study Group. My hosts while I was there were Gail Zadakis and her lover, Reverend Ann Montague. Ann and Gail moved to Eugene, to start our new work, from New York City where Ann had served as Assistant Pastor of that congregation.

In Dallas, I attended on Monday night, November 17th, one of the most exciting benefits given for one of our church's building fund that I have ever been to. You will be reading about it in a future issue of IN UNITY.

The Board of Elders meeting in Los Angeles on October 28-30 was very productive. The Board voted to grant Mission status to Cleveland, Ohio (USA), voted to charter, with full church status, Akron, Ohio (USA), Des Moines, Iowa (USA) and Melbourne, Victoria (Australia).

Speaking of Melbourne, the Reverend Art Cazeault, Associate Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, Georgia (USA) has been called as pastor of our Melbourne church.

Reverend Lee J. Carlton, the Coordinator for World Church Extension in Australia and New Zealand, reports that we now have eight chruch groups at present in Austrlia and New Zealand. I will be leaving Los Angeles on December 29th for 23 days, to visit those two countries and to participate in the first National Conference of the UFMCC in Australia and New Zealand. Please remember this meeting in your prayers.

Getting back to the Elders' meeting, the Board has made appointments for this chruch year to all the Commissions, Committees and Boards that make up the General Conference. As soon as all our brothers and sisters have an opportunity to accept their appointments, we will then print a complete list in IN UNITY.

There have been many requests for informaion concerning who will be serving on the new Commission on Government, Structures and Systems for the General Conference. After prayer and a lengthy discussion, the Board of Elders voted to request that each District Conference elect one lay person and one professional minister to serve as members of the Commision. Also serving on the Commission will be all members of the Board of Elders with the exception of the Moderator. A Chairperson will be appointed after all the members are selected.

Another action of the meeting was changing the name of the Board of Prison Ministry to the Board of Insitituional Ministry. The Board felt this was more in keeping with the extensiveness of our work.

The Board of Elders appointed for another church year, Reverend Lee J. Carlton as Coordinator of Church Extension for Australia and New Zealand; Reverend Robert S. Wolfe as Coordinator of Church Extension for Canada; and Reverend Thomas S. Bigelow as Coordinator of Church Extension for the United Kingdom.

The Board also appointed the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee for this church year. It has been the feelingof the Board of Elders for some time that the Fellowship needed a continuity on this Committee and, therefore, has voted to carry over two persons each year from the previous Committee when feasible. Reverend Robert Cunningham of Long Beach, California, will act as Chairperson of this Committee again this year. Reverend Robert Falls of Houston, Texas, will act as the other continuing member. The new members will be Reverend Nancy Wilson of Detroit, Michigan; Reverend Robert Wolfe of Toronto, Canada; and Reverend William Chapman of San Jose, California.

I and all the other Elders would like to wish all of our readers a most blessed Christmas season.

PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Rev. Troy D. Perry
Liaison Elder
Rev. Richard R. Mickley
Director
Editor of IN UNITY
Robert Barber
George Bright
Lucia Chappelle
Rev. Frank Scott
Rev. Tom Taylor
IN UNITY
Editorial Advisors

Circulation:
Stephen Lane
Layout:
Rev. Larry Bernier
Electronic Typesetting:
Rev. Richard Vincent
Typists:
Alan Shoemaker
Leonard Borst
Jack Randall
William Bansbach
Carl Dearing
William Bright
National Advertising Director:
William H. Ferree

Rev. F. Jay Deacon
Editor of THE GAY CHRISTIAN
Rev. Roy Birchard
Rev. Keith Davis
Rev. Joseph Gilbert
Rev. Howard Wells
THE GAY CHRISTIAN
Editorial Advisors

In Unity is published monthly by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, P.O.Box 36277, Los Angeles, California 90036. © Copyright 1975 by the Universal Fellowship. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Editorial, Circulation and advertising offices, P.O. Box 36277, Los Angeles, California 90036. Application to mail at 2nd class postage is pending at Los Angeles, California. Annual Subscription Rate $6-$10 donations. Please address all subscription correspondence and change of address information to P.O. Box 36277, Los Angeles, California 90036. The publication of any name or advertisement is in no way ment to convey sexual orientation and opinions expressed by the writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or of the Universal Fellowship.

INSIDE IN UNITY

IN UNITY IS ASSUREDLY A MONTHLY MAGAZINE. By faith, IN UNITY has made it through the roughest three months. By faith, we have published in spite of formidable odds three months in a row.

IN UNITY WILL REMAIN A MONTHLY NEWSMAGAZINE and imporve and accomplish its ministry of service: 1) if we patronize our advertizers; 2) if subscriptions increase to the point where we can qualify for second class postage; 3) if all the congregations of the Fellowship really believe we have a story to tell to the nations and tell it in their lives and in IN UNITY.

We see IN UNITY going beyond stories of anniversary dinners and fund raising events to testimonies of changed lives. And God knows it's happening every day! We are here to witness to God's action in the midst of God's people.

Christmas is that time of year when we commemorate in a special way God's action of coming to us in the flesh. Arthur Green's reflections on "Christmas for Christians" call to mind that we not only need to get beyond the parties and presents and tinsel and trinkets, but also beyond the crib and the manger and the Babe in swaddling clothers. Yes, beyond even the Babe in swaddling clothes to the real meaning of the Incarnation, and that takes us even beyond the God-man who walked and talked and lived and died and arose 2000 years ago. Yes, beyond the Then to the Now. To the Incarnation which is here today. To the God who is alive in our cities and deserts and farms and churches today. Larry Bernier's Christmas cover is a whole Christmas meditation on the God who comes to us.

IN UNITY brings a message of the God-made-flesh every time it tells the story we have to tell to the nations.

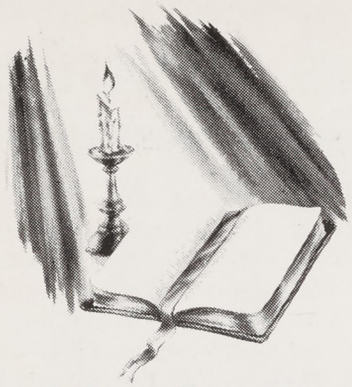
rrm

IN UNITY The News Magazine of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Volume V, Number 5 December 15, 1975

IN THIS ISSUE

message from the moderator 2
christmas for christians 4
elder cureton: prison ministry . . .5
profile: kansas city mcc. 6
the first canadian. 8
the cellmate. 11
alaskans lift cross. 15
fellowship in transition 16
notes 18
letters 19
the sullivan immigration case. . .23



christmas for christians

by Rev. Arthur Green

What a hodge-podge of pleasant, confusing, and contradictory thoughts and feelings "Christmas" brings into our minds.

Scholars and traditionalists (and clergy, who are both) often spend a lot of time critiquing modern-day Christmas customs. As well they might!

The practice of Christmas as individuals and as a church community tells a lot about what we think, believe, and feel about Christmas. Even more, our individual, family, and community customs tell a great deal about what we believe about Christ.

And, that is where the rub is, for the Christian anyway, down inside of us where we live with ourselves and God. Is it enough to think of Christmas as the traditional excuse for a party or series of parties? (And I'm all for parties.) Is this good enough for expressing ourselves in our relationship to God's love and goodness?

However, the festival aspects of Christmas are not to be discounted, or to be under rated, as did our Puritan ancestors. Those stern pillars of pious rigidity even tried to "kill" Christmas because its celebration had come to involve so much eating and drinking and such worldly delights as gift giving and receiving. They seemed to forget that the "Son of Man came eating and drinking" and spent a lot of time enjoying life at weddings, dinner parties, and other social gatherings.

So, while Christians can well examine how they celebrate Christmas, we all need to make our celebration appropriate to our lives.

Further, the serious Christian will be very aware of how she or he prepares for Christmas. If our preparations are all worldly -- buying, decorating, cooking, partying -- then we are obviously keeping a festival of sentiment and comfort no matter how devoutly we may pray for an hour at worship on the Eve or on the Day.

Still important, the theological (God-connected) meaning of Christmas is so important to the life of each Christian that to comprehend, to appreciate, and to appropriate this meaning fully into our lives requires daily prayer, study, and preparation.

It is noteworthy to see the widespread keeping within many MCC's of the preparatory time called Advent, which includes the four Sundays before Christmas. Celebrating Advent during Sunday worship includes readings and preaching concerning the Old Testament prophecies related to the coming of Christ. This brings a "reliving" of the communal experience of awaiting the Savior. This in turn leads to a re-awakening of what Christ's coming means to each of us as individuals and as a Christian Community.

Important as is the church worship in Advent, the vital spiritual awakening (or re-awak--ening) to the great gift God has given us in Christ comes as we individually work our way toward Christmas through study and prayer.

The holiday we mark with decorations, with music, with gift giving, with the exchange of friendly greetings, with festive meals and with special worship is only truly joyful in an abiding way as Christ is made most alive in our minds, hearts, and lives. That happens only as we prepare our hearts and minds for Him to come and accept Him to dwell there in love and joy.

Oftentimes members of the homophile subculture fall excessively into the two main traps concerning the celebration of Christmas. On the one hand are gay people who feel rejected by God or by God's church and take up the mistaken Puritan notion that Christmas is some kind of religious rip-off. These gay people then spend Christmas Day at the baths, or drinking excessively, or in drugged sleep -- all consciously or unconsciously designed to get them past anxiety and rejection.

The other side of that coin are gay people who (like many other people) also see Christmas as an excuse for escape, and take up the superficial aspects of the holiday with a vengence. They have the most elaborately decorated home, the most expensive Christmas cards, the biggest parties, and the longest gift lists. All this non--celebration of God's love is capped by a mandatory attendance at some worship service (perhaps a very elaborate one) to make it all officially "Christmas."

OFTENTIMES MEMBERS OF THE HOMOPHILE SUBCULTURE FALL EXCESSIVELY INTO THE TWO MAIN TRAPS CONCERNING THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS.

Here is, of course, where individual church members and the lives they lead (as well as the worship of the local church) is so important. What we believe about Christmas and how we live in relationship to this celebration of the Christ-event is going to determine not only the genuineness of our own "Christmas," but how others see Christmas, how they see Christ.

If we, Christian sisters and brothers, approach Christmas seriously -- if we are praying and gathering together for prayer and Scripture and spiritual study in

please turn to page 21

"Why does Metropolitan Community Church need a prison ministry? Institutions have chaplains don't they? After all, I don't really know anything about working with prisoners. I have enough to do just taking care of my own church." This is just one of the typical conversations that can be overheard when the people of MCC discuss our Prison Ministry program. It is in no way meant to convey disinterest, but rather uncertainty. I, too, felt very unsure about the outreach into prisons until I started working with a few of the men at the correctional facility at Menard, Illinois. Perhaps sharing some of my thoughts on the subject, along with some of the ideas gathered from our *Prison Ministry Handbook*, will help some clarify their own ideas.

Every person is assured freedom of worship by our society. Surely, contained in that assurance is the freedom to have one's spiritual needs ministered to. By their actions, initiation of communications and requests for help, hundreds and even thousands of prisoners in this country have turned to Metropolitan Community Church to minister to their spiritual needs because the prison chaplains and religious services provided by the prisons have failed to meet these needs.

MCC seeks to serve the spiritual, not sexual, needs of people. We seek to promote the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, not of any sexuality. We do, however, view the gay or homosexual (one having an affectional preference for one of the same sex) as having a viable alternative life style when kept within the Christian context.

Many gay persons in prison, like people everywhere, have become aware of their own sexuality and its importance in the development of their values and ways of living. Because they see MCC as a supportive community in their effort to develop their full human potential, they turn to us for help when they find so many forces in society militating against their self actualization and fulfilment.

In the ministry provided for those in prison, and in society in general, there is a negative and condemning attitude toward gay people and at the same time a very limited knowledge and considerable lack of skills for dealing with their specific problems. The Prison Ministry of Metropolitan Communtiy Churches seeks to minister to those persons for whom this negative and condemning attitude prevents adeadequate spiritual and religious nurturance and worship.

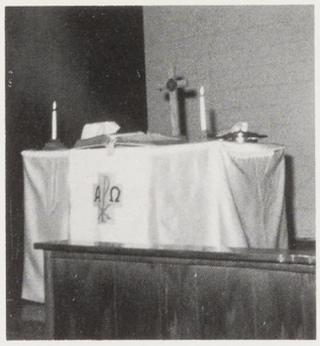
To summarize, the need for the ministry of MCC in the prison system is indicated by:

1. The statements by inmates that the present system fails to meet their spiritual needs;
2. Statements by the prison chaplain that (s)he feels inadequate to minister to the gay inmates;
3. The proven expertise of MCC in ministering to and dealing with gay persons;
4. The fact that the exclusion of MCC from the prison system is to deny the same freedom of worship and religion for the gay inmate as is extended to their heterosexual counterparts.

I would urge each person, lay and clergy, to prayerfully consider their part in this outreach program. Let us remember the words of our Lord as recorded in Matthew, "...when saw we you sick, or in prison, and came unto you? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my (people) you have done it unto me."

Reverend Elder Carol S. Cureton

when did we see YOU in prison?



PROFILE: Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Kansas City

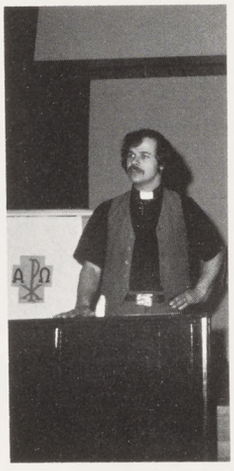
by a Member of MCC-Kansas City

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Kansas City became a Chartered Church of the Universal Fellowship on the 27th day of August in 1973. We had begun a few months earlier under the leadership of Reverend Victor Adams and Reverend Cari Adams. Services were first held outside at the Volker Fountains. There were several moves during the next year, including a stay at the Asylum, a Gay Coffeehouse owned by one of the members. Finally, we moved into the All Souls Unitarian Church where we are still holding services until we move into our new building in January of 1976.

The Reverends Victor and Cari Adams came to Kansas City from Montebello, California, to begin the first work in what is now called the Mid-Central District. During their stay with us here in Kansas City they not only saw much growth of this district, but were also blessed with a daughter, Catherine, in the spring of 1974. In July of that year, they returned to California to continue their work for the Lord.

August of 1974 saw Reverend Ron Burcham elected as Worship Coordinator of the Kansas City church. Ron was an ordained minister with the Southern Baptist Convention. After several years in the ministry, he was asked to leave his pastorate because of his sexual preference. After being asked to leave several Pentacostal groups for the same reason, and after the termination of a marriage of over seven years which gave him two daughters, Ron moved to Los Angeles and became involved in MCC Los Angeles. After a short time, he moved back to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he intended to start a Study Group. He was invited to move to Kansas City by Reverend Adams and made that move in March of 1974. Ron was licensed as a minister in the Fellowship in January of 1975.

The month of January brought many new things. Several members were added to the church rolls. One of them was Bob Brown who was a new Christian. He and Ron fell in love and by summer became lovers. While



at General Conference in Dallas they were given the Rite of Blessing by Reverend Elder Carol Cureton. They have announced a Holy Union for December 27, 1975.

Ron and Bob would like to own an A-frame home somewhere out in the suburbs someday. Bob is a licensed cosmotologist, but is working as a chemical lab technician. Ron is full time Pastor. At the present time they are living in the heart of the "gay ghetto," but will be moving to a smaller place as soon as we get into our new church home.

MCC/KC has one licensed exhorter, Jerry Sloan. Jerry was licensed in Kansas City and became the founder of MCC-Des Moines, Iowa, and the founder of MCC-Wichita, Kansas. December of 1975 will find Jerry at MCC Sacramento, California, where he will be working with the Pastor of that church, the Reverend Elder Freda Smith. Jerry has done a fine job here in the Mid-Central District.

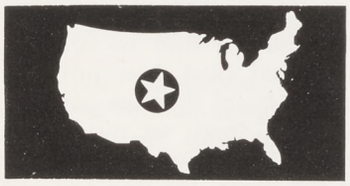
MCC/KC is blessed with two deacon candidates and five licensed deacons, three of whom have now become exhorter candidates responding to a call toward the licensed ministry of this Fellowship. Space would not permit telling all the duties of our deacons and exhorter candidates. Some of the major duties include handling the phones four nights per week, helping in the regular Sunday services, and being available to assist in any way they are needed. One of our deacons is in charge of our weekly prayer and share group. Another deacon is the editor of our monthly newsletter. Each deacon has a portion of the membership to keep in touch with each month. Several of our deacons recently finished a course in alcoholism counseling which should prove an invaluable aid to our community.

Our social director works very closely with the deacons in our social functions. He takes care of the coffee table after services and sponsors other functions such as a recent hayride. The treasurer of our deacons is in charge of our bookstore table each Sunday.

Our prison ministry representative was active in this ministry for many months before he was appointed as Area Representative of the Board of Institutional Ministry (formerly Prison Ministry). He is active in the Department of Corrections for the State of Missouri and also works with the ex-offenders group here in Kansas City. He visits and writes letters to the inmates in Jefferson City, Missouri, and is a valuable addition to the ministry of this church.

Our board of directors is made up of seven members elected by

the congregation for three-year terms, plus the Pastor. This makes a total of eight persons, two female and six male. They serve our church well, handling the finances and helping our congregation determine our direction of growth. Recently they helped us decide on a building to purchase and have been very active along with the building fund committee in fund raising activities. Everyone has been pitching in on this gigantic task of fund raising.



We have dances, raffles, bazaars, yard sales, letters to other groups and persons, hayrides, bar benefits, paper drives, a magic show, and other activities to boost the building fund. Five percent of our monthly offerings also are designated to the building fund. Although our building fund drive will continue, by publication date of this article we will have borrowed whatever funds are needed to purchase our new building. Any help is greatly appreciated.

At present our Sunday afternoon services are held in the Unitarian Church. Tuesday prayer and share is held in one of our deacon's home. Communicants' class, exhorter training, counseling, office, bible study, and board meetings are currently housed in the parsonage. Choir practice is held in the home of the choir director who not only leads the choir, but also directs our music and provides us with special music almost every Sunday. As with most MCC's, we are blessed with an abundance of talent.

Our membership now stands at 109. This figure is constantly changing as new persons join and others move away. The ratio of women to men is not too good right now, but it is getting better.

Reverend Burcham and other members are also active in public speaking engagements. They speak at the college and university campuses, a local high school, a school of nursing, the Methodist Seminary, and assorted other group functions. They have been on radio and had articles published in local newspapers.

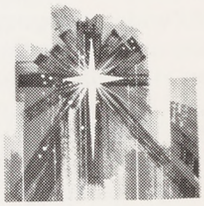
The need is great here in Kansas City to reach out to the community with God's love. We are trying to reach out with this message to touch "all who carry heavy burdens." The church phone is kept busy with calls for help, and the deacons are kept busy counseling and providing for the needs of people who turn to our church for social services. We see the need and feel so inadequate, but we have the promise of God's help as we reach out. We have hopes of starting a gay alcoholic's group in the very near future. We are reaching out and needs are being met. Praise the Lord!!! But there is so much more to do!!!

We have 29 women and 80 men. We have two women deacons and two women on the board of directors. Our average attendance for September of 1975 was 85. We have three Friends, two of which are women. We also have a large number of persons, both women and men, who attend and even participate in many ways, who are not Members or official Friends of the church.

Some of our members are interested in political change, including the Pastor, and have been somewhat active in helping other organizations to change or challenge some of the existing laws. Some of our members are active in the Joint Committee for Gay Rights, Gay People's Union, Gay Community Services Center, Women's Liberation Union, Methodist Gay Caucus, and Dignity.

the
wolf
lives
with
the
lamb

the
lion
lies
down
with
the
kid



the
calf
and
the
panther
feed
together

and
a
little
child
shall
lead
them
isaiah 11:6

a
most
blessed
and
joyous
Christmas
from
the
staff
of
IN UNITY

mcc's first native-born canadian minister

by John Bodis

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) is truly becoming an international church. To be sure, the churches in Australia, Nigeria, England and Canada have existed for some time, but with the licensing to the ministry of natural born citizens, the church will begin to take on an international viewpoint. The unparalleled growth of MCC has reached world-wide proportions. Let us rejoice in this growth that we may enjoy the fellowship of all people, blessed in God's love.

On October 30, 1975, the first native born Canadian was licensed to the ministry in UFMCC. On Sunday, November 2, 1975, the Reverend David A. Gunton was publicly recognized before the congregation of MCC Toronto and presented with a stole and bible.

Reverend Robert S. Wolfe, Pastor of MCC Toronto and Coordinator of Church Extension in Canada, believes that David has "a real ministry to perform." In light of the need in Canada for a feeling of fellowship, one must agree with Reverend Wolfe and acknowledge that the task will not be an easy one.

Photos by John Bodis

I asked Reverend Gunton what led him into the ministry of MCC. He responded:

"Being raised in a Christian home surrounded by love, I soon came to respect and rely on God moving directly in my life. At times I tried to run from God but He never forsook me. He was always right there. When I became a Christian, the Lord started to use me. He gave me many opportunities for service. One weekend He took me to a youth conference and I heard a sermon from a man who is now a friend of mine. God moved through that sermon to show me that He wanted me in the ministry. When an invitation to commitment was made, I could do nothing else but respond.

"Being raised a Baptist, I always thought this would entail ministry in the Baptist Church. However, when I came to the realization that I was a homosexual, I simply could not reconcile the two. Leaving a small town in Ontario and moving to the big city afforded me many opportunities to explore my own sexuality and lifestyle. During that period of exploration, the Lord led me to a service at MCC. I had come looking for a theological basis for my existence as a gay person, but rather than fulfilling this lofty goal, I found a group of people truly alive with God's love. It didn't take long for me to realize that here were my people and this would be my ministry."

David is aware that Canada has it's own special need for ministry;

"Canada is rather an unusual country. We are often termed a melting pot for various cultures, but no culture completely loses its identity. Therefore, we are a many faceted nation. Canada is also a country filled with people living in fear, guilt, and oppression. Under Federal Law, homosexual acts between consenting adults in private are not illegal, but society does not accept gay people as part of society. This fact has been demonstrated over and over again by the mail that flows into the Toronto church. Toronto may be open and relatively accepting of gay people, but this is definitely not the case in the rest of Canada. I feel it is my ministry to go to these people and to proclaim to them that God does not discriminate because they are gay. In fact, He loves them so much that He sent our Brother, Jesus Christ, to die for them. We don't need to be afraid anymore. We don't need to be bound by guilt anymore. We don't need to be oppressed anymore, because the Son has set us free.

Finally, I asked Reverend Gunton to give his impressions on the future of MCC in Canada.

"MCC may have started in the States, but it can no longer be confined to the United States. The

message of liberation that we proclaim is for all people, gay or straight, in all nations of the world. When the 1975 General Conference chose for its theme We've a Story to Tell to the Nations, it was truly setting the stage for the international thrust that MCC is now experiencing. As the work of the Reverend Lee Carlton in Australia has yielded phenomenal results, I feel the time for Canada to start experiencing tremendous growth is upon us. In talking with Reverend Perry, I know he realizes that Canada is "white unto the harvest" and we in the Canadian church must be prepared to minister to an ever increasing flock. We are small in number, but with prayer-support,

"I found a group of people truly alive with God's love. It didn't take long for me to realize that here were my people and this would be my ministry."

and with the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we can rise to meet the tremendous need. The Lord is moving through MCC. We call ourselves a Universal Fellowship, and truly, that is what we have become. We really do have a story to tell to the nations."

What can this poor interviewer add?

Amen, brothers and sisters, Amen!

(Because of the mail strike in Canada, we have not been able to get letters or packages into or out of Canada through the mails. This article, with the accompanying photos, was brought back from Toronto by Reverend Troy Perry following his recent visit to the Canadian churches.)

Reverend Robert S. Wolfe, Coordinator of Church Extension in Canada, presents the stole to Reverend David A. Gunton on the occasion of his licensing as the first native-born Canadian to become an MCC minister.

THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
Officers and Coordinators

BOARD OF ELDERS
Rev. Troy D. Perry
Moderator
Rev. John H. Hose
Vice Moderator
Rev. Richard C. Vincent
Clerk
Rev. James E. Sandmire
Treasurer
Rev. John W. Gill
Rev. Freda Smith
Rev. Carol S. Cureton

UNITED STATES DISTRICTS
NORTHEAST
Rev. Howard Gaass
District Coordinator
Rev. Stephanie Bigusiak
Assistant District Coord.
SOUTHEAST
Rev. Keith Davis
District Coordinator
Rev. A. Evan St. Ives
Assistant District Coord.
GREAT LAKES
Rev. B. J. McDaniels
District Coordinator
Rev. Jay Thomas
Assistant District Coord.
MID-CENTRAL
Rev. Charlie Arehart
District Coordinator
Rev. Bob Arthur
Assistant District Coord.
SOUTH CENTRAL
Rev. C. Shawn Farrell
District Coordinator
Rev. Ronald Anderson
Assistant District Coord.
NORTHWEST
Rev. Gary Wilson
District Coordinator
Rev. Wallace Lanchester
Assistant District Coord.
SOUTHWEST
Rev. Donald Pederson
District Coordinator

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND
Rev. Lee J. Carlton
Coordinator of Church Extension
CANADA
Rev. Robert S. Wolfe
Coordinator of Church Extension
UNITED KINGDOM
Rev. Thomas Bigelow
Coordinator of Church Extension
NIGERIA
Rev. Sylvanus Maduka
Pastor, MCC-Zaria

(Photo: L-R: Dr. Franklin Kameny, nationally known gay rights leader who resides in Washington; Scott Johnson, treasurer of MCC Washington; Reverend Troy Perry, UFMCC Moderator; Reverend Roy Birchard, Director of MCC's Washington Office; and Kerry Brown, head of MCC DC's General Conference '76 Committee.)

UFMCC Opens Washington Office

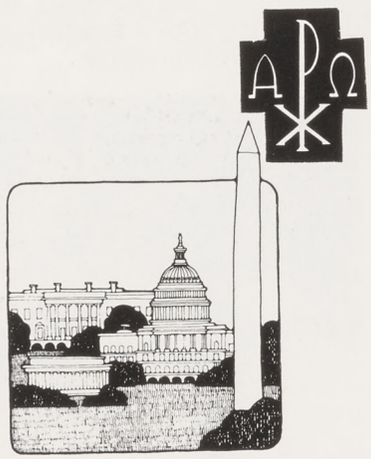
In November Reverend Troy Perry, Moderator of the Board of Elders, opened the new MCC Office of National Affairs in Washington, DC. Reverend Roy Birchard is Director of the office and coordinator of the year-long preparation for MCC's 1976 General Conference in Washington, and Affirmation '76, which will be held in conjunction with the Conference.

Reverend Perry met with church, government, and gay community leaders in the nation's capitol to make plans and set procedures for Affirmation '76, August 10-15, 1976.

On his Washington visit, Reverend Perry met with Arthur Flemming, head of the US Civil Rights Commission and with Gary Aldridge, openly-gay assistant to Democratic Senator Alan Cranston of California, to discuss prospects for gay civil rights legislation at the Federal level.

The national gay civil rights bill has been introduced by Democratic Representative Bella Abzug of New York.

The new MCC office is located in the Center for the Study of Power and Peace along with offices of several other major religious denominations.



All gay organizations in the world will be invited to participate in the Affirmation '76 march and rally in Washington, DC. Exciting details of the plans for this world-wide gathering of gay people in the capitol of the United States during its bi-centennial year will be announced in the next issue of IN UNITY.

Affirmation '76

Terry McLain (40949), a prisoner at Menard, Illinois, where Jim Lewey of MCC-St. Louis holds the MCC Chaplaincy, has come up with an excellent idea which IN UNITY feels appropriate to share with all its readers everywhere.

Terry, who is a regular columnist for the MCC-St. Louis publication, THE NEW LIGHT, first revealed the idea in his column. His idea is very simple. He urges MCC people to write AFFIRMATION '76 on the outside of their envelopes anytime they address an envelope to anyone where this would be appropriate. "It not only shows the writer's support of this great rally for freedom," he explains, "but it also will make the American people aware. I am in hope that enough people will do this that by August, when the Conference is held, the country should be well aware that gay people, too, should be included in the bicentennial celebration of freedom."

Terry's address is Box 711, Menard, IL 62259. If you like the idea, drop him a note of congratulations. Don't forget to write AFFIRMATION '76 on the envelope!

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

THE CELLMATE

Volume II, Number 6

December 1975

MCC HOLDS FIRST SERVICE IN CALIFORNIA MEN'S COLONY

Following the favorable ruling of the US District Court granting MCC the right to minister to prisoners in California prisons, the Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) authorized Reverend Tere Roderick to begin arrangements to answer the call of seventy-some prisoners at California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo for MCC services.

With the heartwarming assistance of Protestant Chaplain Stanley McGuire, the first worship service was held in November. The entire Board of Institutional Ministry was present.

Reverend Roderick preached. Reverend McGuire, Reverend Bud Bunce, Reverend Elder Richard Vincent and Reverend Richard Mickley concelebrated with Reverend Roderick at the Holy Communion service. Seventy-eight prisoners attended.

Here is the reaction written to the Board in a letter from Fred Knight, one of the prisoners who was there.

"I have never sang a hymn, never taken Communion, and I don't understand the ways of services. I'm very new at all this. I can see the need of a service for mainly gay men and would like to leave prison this time knowing that I have done something to get myself together in here. I took my first Communion at the November 6th MCC service. I am more and more into reading parts of the Bible, and listening to the sermons, and I've even been attending the regular chapel services as you advised. All in all, I find more happiness in this than just sitting around my cell.

"We would like to have some MCC crosses for the really sincere men.

"We are looking forward to our next service on December 4th."

indianapolis hosts prison ministry seminar

Indianapolis MCC will host a District Prison Ministry Seminar scheduled for January 9 thru 11, 1976. Byron Williams is serving as local coordinator of the seminar. Norm Flowers of Chicago, District Prison Ministry Coordinator, will convene the seminar.

The seminar is open to all interested persons from MCC's anywhere. Further information is obtainable from Byron Williams, Jr, 1940 North Delaware, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance registration is required for proper planning.

The stated purpose of the seminar is "to go behind the walls of our institutions, looking for brothers and sisters who are calling upon us for help. To make it known to them who want to know Him, that Jesus Christ is truly Son of God, Light of the World."

Sessions will cover pen pals, counseling, legal aid, parole planning, etc. A guest speaker will be announced. There is a $10 registration fee, including the Saturday evening banquet.

Registration is 7 PM Friday, January 9, followed by a prayer service. Saturday will feature sessions on pen pals, counseling, legal aid, and parole planning. Sunday's sessions will center around sharing insights, meeting with pastors, worship and closing with brunch.

THE CELLMATE is published monthly by the Board of Institutional Ministry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, POB 36277, Los Angeles, CA 90036. It is included in IN UNITY, the copyrighted Fellowship news magazine, and printed separately for those who are not subscribers to IN UNITY.

BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND VIP FORUM

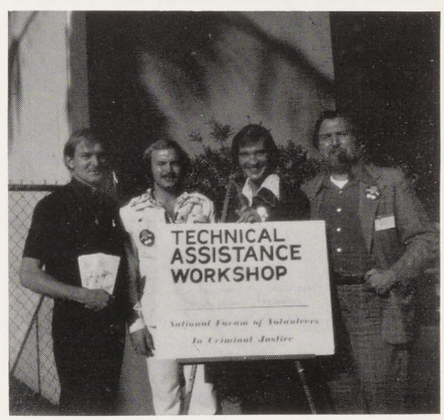
The Reverend Bud Bunce, National Chief of Chaplains, and Reverend Dick Mickley, National Administrator of the Board of Institutional Ministry, attended the three day National Forum of the Volunteers on Criminal Justice held in San Diego in October.

Gene Zurenda, Area Representative of the Board in Southern California's San Diego County, and Robbie Mangiafico, both members of MCC Palomar, assisted at the Forum by attending the MCC booth, distributing prison ministry flyers and telling interested inquirers about MCC and its work with prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Judge Keith Leenhouts, founder of Volunteers in Probation, Prevention, Prosecution, Prison, Parole, visited the booth and expressed his admiration for the solid Christian approach of MCC to its prison ministry.

Judge Leenhouts publishes the VIP Examiner, an excellent resource for all people working in any area of prison ministry. Free subscriptions are available. A donation is appreciated. It is a 24 page quarterly newspaper jam-

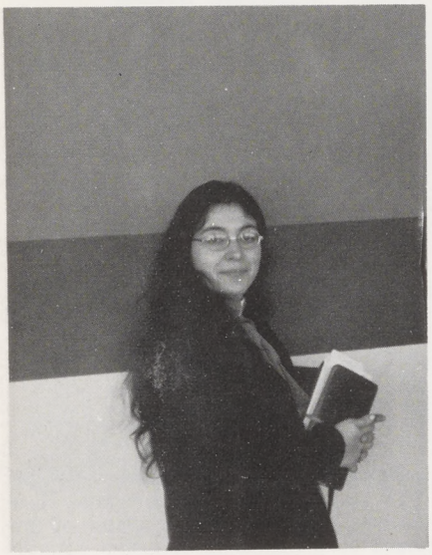
please turn to VIP FORUM page after next



(L-R) Dick Mickley, Robbie Mangiafico, Gene Zurenda, with Lutheran Pastor Bob Goelz in San Diego.

Photo by Bud Bunce

First Worship Service at Vacaville



The Reverend Tere Ann Roderick, MCC Chaplain of the California Medical Facility at Vacaville.

Reverend Roderick, who is on the staff of MCC San Francisco, resides in that city. She has been active in the MCC prison outreach for more than two years. The Board has authorized her to respond to requests from prisoners at California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo for the ministry of MCC.

The first worship service within the prisons of California was held at California Medical Facility, Vacaville, on November 3, 1975.

This is the first MCC worship service since the favorable federal court ruling this fall admitting this Fellowship to California prisons on an equal basis with all other Christian denominations. (MCC has been conducting worship services for a committed community at Atascadero State Hospital for two years, but that facility is not under the state Department of Corrections with which MCC was in litigation.)

Reverend Bud Bunce led off the testimony time by giving the personal story of his involvement with the prison ministry. Several of the prisoners testified about what the Lord had done in their own lives and how MCC helped them return to a relationship with the Lord. (Reverend Roderick has been serving as MCC Chaplain at Vacaville for the last year, spending one day a week in the prison chaplain's office counseling prisoners by appointment.)

Reverend Roderick shared with the congregation in the sermon how MCC was a sign to the Christian and to the world that God's love has no limits, that the prison ministry was a challenge to MCC to fulfill its call to be accepting of ALL God's children.

The Communion service was especially moving. For some, it was the first Communion in many years. For others, it was a rededication to God's work. It was evident that all approached the Lord's Supper with sincerity and gratitude.

The service ended with the group joining together to sing *I'm Not Afraid Anymore.* Never were the words sung with more conviction. It was truly a fitting beginning for the work.

There was a second service at Vacaville, November 24th. Several were prevented from attending because of their work schedules. There were thirty-five in attendance. Again, it was clear according to Chaplain Roderick, "The Lord is moving in the California prison system, and MCC is part of that movement."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONGRESS MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

The Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Prisoners held at Geneva, Switzerland, September 1975, recommended that the UN General Assembly adopt a declaration on the protection of all persons from being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

The following is a synopsis of the twelve lengthy articles of the Declaration.

Article 1

Torture means any act by which physical or mental pain or suffering is inflicted by a public official (beyond the pain and suffering inherent in incarceration).

Article 2

Any act of torture or degrading treatment is an offence to human dignity and shall be condemned as a denial of the principles of the UN and a violation of the human rights and fundemental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 3

No nation may permit or tolerate torture, even during war or emergencies.

Article 4

Each nation shall take effective measures to prevent torture and degrading treatment.

Article 5

The training of law enforcement personnel shall ensure against torture, etc.

Article 6

Each nation shall keep under systematic review interrogation methods and practices as well as arrangements for the custody and treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in its territory, with a view to preventing any cases of torture, etc.

Article 7

Each nation shall ensure that all acts of torture as defined in Article I are offenses under its criminal law.

Article 8

Any person who alleges to have been subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by or at the instigation of a public official shall have the right to complain to, and to have their case impartially examined by competent authorities.

Article 9

Wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture as defined in Article I has been committed, the competent authorities of the nation concerned shall promptly proceed to an impartial investigation even if there has been no formal complaint.

Article 10

If an investigation establishes that an act of torture as defined in Article I appears to have been committed, criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the alleged offender in accordance with national law.

Article 11

Where it is proved that an act of torture or other degrading treatment has been committed, by or at the instigation of a public official, the victim shall be afforded redress and compensation, in accordance with national law.

Article 12

Any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment may not be invoked as evidence against the person concerned or against any other person in any proceedings.

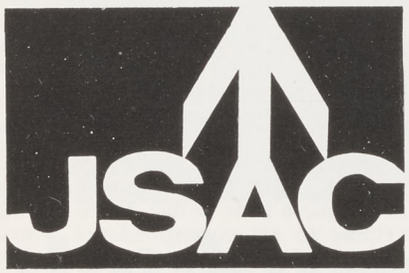
The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.

—Dostoevski

CONFERENCES

NEW YORK CONFERENCE

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was represented at the October meeting of the National Interreligious Task Force on Criminal Justice in New York City by the Reverend Joseph Gilbert, former Director of National Prison Ministry and presently our minister in Providence, Rhode Island.



JSAC, the Joint Strategy and Action Committee, is the parent organization of the Interreligious Task Force on Criminal Justice. MCC belongs to this Task Force, along with representatives of twenty other major denominations. Rev. Joseph Gilbert attended the October meeting in New York in behalf of MCC.

CONFERENCE: GAYS IN FEDERAL PRISONS

The Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, DC, hosted the "Bicentennial Conference on Gays and the Federal Government" in Washington and Reverend Joseph Gilbert, former Director of MCC's National Prison Ministry was there to serve on a panel "Gays in Federal Prison."

The purpose of the conference was stated as follows: "As our nation celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, America's 20 million gay citizens are realizing that we, too, are entitled to certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"Like our country's revolutionary founders, we, too, find ourselves confronted with a national government that has been indifferent or hostile to our rights and dignity.

"And, so while others may be content to celebrate a revolution of two centuries ago, we gay Americans must rededicate ourselves to a new revolution for liberty ..."

The conference coordinator was James P. Zais, of Washington GAA, and Research Associate, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC.

Reverend Gilbert reported that the conference was the best planned, and highest content conference he had been to in a long time.

In the particular area of prisons, so much of concern to this Fellowship, Reverend Edwin Muller, a United Methodist in the Division of Ministerial Services of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, said of the scene: "The Administration is morally bankrupt, the staff and the inmates, too. Superficial, meaningless games are all going on between staff and inmates ... which maybe aren't so meaningless after all."

Ms Jeanette Spenser, ex-prisoner and president of Fortune Society, spoke about ex-offender and prisoners' groups. Mr. Robert Martinson, author of the recent study which tends to show that neither program nor treatment seem to materially affect recidivism rates, spoke to the group about a theory of his for abolishing prisons.

In spite of these things, the thrust of the conference was away from the area of prisons and prisoners.

Among the important issues raised was the need for prompt response from Americans to the threat posed by a Senate Bill S-1. Provisions of the bill could conceivably be used against "gay conspirators." It is in fact a massive attack on civil liberties. The ACLU has identified at least 30 important provisions which Americans do not need. It is suggested that you immediately write to your Senator asking for a copy of the bill S-1, stating that you have heard of its repressive nature. You may also wish

"S-1 is, in fact, a massive attack on civil liberties."

to write to such members of the Judiciary Committee as Senators Kennedy and Bayh. There is some thinking that the place to stop the legislation is in the House, and Congressman Rodino of the House Judiciary Committee and your own Congressperson might be useful. The companion bill on the House side is HR 3907.

There was discussion of work done at the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in September in Geneva. Most importantly a statement of Prisoner Rights was a part of that work (and is reprinted in this issue).

Ms Julie Schwartberg from the Grand Jury Project in New York City spoke of the way the Grand Jury process has recently been subverted to harass women. Gay people know the extent to which the process has been used against gay women and it is suggested that persons interested in the problem write to Ms Julie Schwartbert, Grand Jury Project, 853 Broadway, Room 1415, New York, NY.

A very real part of the conference was the feeling that the Task Force had to continue to work in the area of Criminal Justice Standards and Goals.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE APPLICATION

I, the undersigned, make application to enroll in one of the courses offered by the UFMCC Board of Prison Ministry (USA).

Please check the course you wish to take (only one course may be taken at a time).

☐ **WHY AM I AFRAID TO LOVE?**

A study in self-understanding; a psychological and Christian approach to love based on a little book written by Father John Powell, S.J. Father Powell's deep religious and psychological insights help to give us a rare opportunity to break the shell that encloses us.

☐ **WHAT IS MCC TODAY? A STUDY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.**

A study of what makes a Christian a Christian; a study of what makes a Christian Church a Christian Church. Includes a study of the teachings, organization, and works of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, with readings from the autobiography of the founder, the Rev. Troy D. Perry.

As I sign this application, I fully intend to complete the course. I understand that the lessons will be sent to me one at a time until I complete all the lessons for the course. Please send me Lesson One as soon as possible.

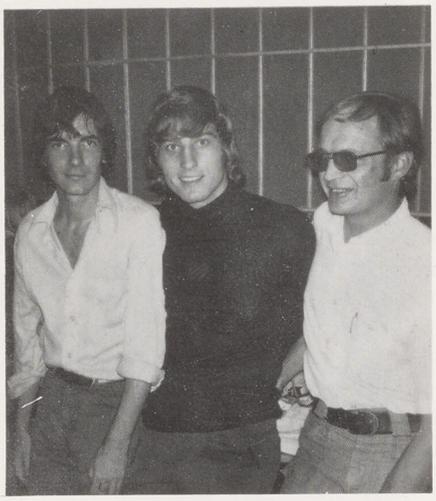
VIP FORUM

packed with experience, ideas, and testimonies of what is happening among the tens of thousands of VIP's in America. The newspaper regularly lists resources available for help in training volunteers. For example, it would be well for all Area Representatives to write to the Volunteer Resources Center, Criminal Justice Program, University of Alabama, POB 1935, University, AL 35486. Ask for catalog of training resources available.

To subscribe to the VIP Examiner, write to POB 31, Flint, MI 48501.

Reverend Bunce and Reverend Mickley found many friends of MCC among the leaders and thousand or more delegates to the VIP Forum. Reverend Bob Goelz, a Lutheran pastor, was especially helpful in making sure the MCC prison ministry was represented among the information booths.

NEW AREA REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED



(Photo: Fred Wren (right) visits two inmates at Missouri State Prison.)

FRED WREN SERVES IN KANSAS CITY AREA

The Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) has named Fred Wren the Area Representative in the Kansas City area.

In accepting the nomination of his pastor and the appointment of the Board of Institutional Ministry, Fred commented, "I want to work closely as I can with MCC in getting the Love of God to people behind prison walls."

Fred's decision came after prayer and complete surrender to God's will. He joined the Volunteers in Correction and was accepted by the State Department of Corrections to work in the prison.

"This is the way the Lord wants us to work, at least here in Kansas City," he explained. "We have to work with the State instead of engaging in war with them. When the Lord is ready, the prison gates will open to us. The State will come to know that we do care for our brothers and sisters as fellow human beings and as children of God. They will know that we can help people become wanted and needed members of the community as a whole."

Fred is serving as a volunteer in the Missouri State Prison and is working with Job Therapy, Inc., in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas.

ZURENDA NAMED IN SAN DIEGO

Gene Zurenda, secretary of the board of directors of MCC Palomar, with the recommendation of his pastor, the Reverend Howard Williams, has been named Area Representative of the Board of Institutional Ministry in the San Diego County area. Gene, who is also a deacon candidate, writes: "for the past few weeks, I have been sharing to many about the prison ministry. After the announcement last night at MCC San Diego, fifteen people signed up to get involved. I just can't help being so excited because I know how the good Lord really works. I am studying the Handbook of Prison Ministry madly. I want several when the new edition is out."

CUPO NAMED AREA REPRESENTATIVE

On the recommendation of his pastor, the Reverend Don Borbe, Nick Cupo of Philadelphia has been named an Area Representative of the Board of Institutional Ministry (USA).

Nick has been a member of the Philadelphia church for about two years and was working with the GAA of Philadelphia and their prison committee prior to this position. He is also on the Sub-committee on Corrections of the Governor's Task Force on Homosexuality in Pennsylvania.

Nick and his group will be working to open the doors of the prisons in Pennsylvania to the church and will be trying to assist the prisoners in making their time a little better. He will also be helping to get correspondence courses to the prisoners as well as the various publications of the church.

Nick is in need of pen pals for his area. Anyone interested in this should write to him at POB 8174, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

NORM FLOWERS HEADS GREAT LAKES PRISON MINISTRY

Norm Flowers of Chicago has been nominated by his pastor, the Reverend Kenneth Martin, and appointed by the Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) as Area Representative in the Chicago area. His District Coordinator, the Reverend B. J. McDaniels, has also appointed him Coordinator of Prison Ministry for the Great Lakes District.

Immediately upon the appointment, Norm took on his responsibility with a great deal of initiative. "First," he said, "I made a thorough study of the MCC HANDBOOK OF PRISON MINISTRY to make certain that I understood what this ministry was all about."

He called a meeting of all those interested at the District Conference in Cincinnati and began arrangements for a Prison Ministry Seminar to be held in Indianapolis in January.

He has met with the Northern Illinois Director of Prisoner's Legal Services along with Pastor Martin, and they have been assured that eventually the doors of Illinois penal institutions will be opened to those inmates who turn to MCC for the ministry of the church.

"I was--in prison and you visited me."

alaskans lift cross on new church site

The church in Alaska, MCC Anchorage, is boasting these days that they will be the first in the Fellowship to physically build their own place of worship.

They have purchased five acres on a mountainside which has been subdivided into three parcels. Two and half acres have been reserved for church facilities. The others are to be sold to offset the cost of the congregational buildings.

Work has begun. Ground has been broken. A huge cross has been erected. They plan to celebrate Easter in their own church home. (They're building! In the winter! In Alaska!)

How do they do it? They have special techniques -- in addition to their sturdy constitutions, confident smiles, warm hearts *and* unhesitating faith. After the foundation is poured, a plastic cover is placed over the building site and the inside is warmed by kerosene heaters. The work goes on with the members furnishing much of the labor.

In a feature story in the October 22nd ADVOCATE, Rob Shivers summed up her opinion of this church, "These hardy Alaskans make everything seem so simple, it would be easy to overlook the dauntless spirit, the courage and determination they display daily to survive and help their community."

Pastor Jim Morgan tells the story of the dedication of the new church property in this way:

"That Sunday was a rainy, dreary, cold day. It was to be an open air service. We had obtained a portable generator and intended to use the electric organ. One of the members showed up with a pickup truck loaded with such things as a 40x40 foot plastic tarp and enough wood and nails to construct a frame for the plastic. In about forty minutes we had our own little chapel complete with organ music! I was a little sad that we did not have a bright sunny day for such a happy occasion and it was much on my mind. Well, about half way through the service the rain stopped and by Communion time the sun was shining. It was quite an experience.

"After Communion and to the singing of *Lift High The Cross of Jesus*, the congregation of about 65 people took down the plastic and cleared the spot for the raising of the Cross.

"These hardy Alaskans make everything seem so simple ... the dauntless spirit, the courage, the determination they display daily to survive and help their community."

"The Cross was 16 feet long by almost 12 feet across. It took three tries before we finally met with success. It was a great lesson and we still talk about the need for all of us to work together! The moment the Cross sank into the slot prepared for it was a heavy emotional trip for many. For some, this will be the most public claim they will ever make on God's love. It was really beautiful. I wish you could have been there."

Reverend Morgan was writing to Reverend Perry. But he probably would say the same thing to every member of MCC everywhere.

The accompanying photos capture and immortalize this historic moment for MCC-Anchorage.

FELLOWSHIP IN TRANSITION

Clergy and lay delegates from the Northeast District MCC's met in Baltimore, Maryland, October 17 thru 19. The Reverend Nancy Wilson, outgoing District Coordinator, reported from the Board of Home Missions that letters had been received from three groups who want to affiliate with the UFMCC. They are located in Troy, New York; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Berryville, Virginia. Arnold Hutchins, representing the Harrisburg group, was directed to work with the Reverend Michael England in developing a church in that

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN BALTIMORE

area. The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sutdy Group has been granted Mission Status (pending approval by the Board of Elders). The idea of campus ministry was discussed and it was noted that Reverend England is now on the Pennsylvania State University campus full time.

The district conference took steps to assist their developing church groups. The clergy and delegates voted to follow the lead of the Great Lakes District and provide a written guide for groups moving from Study Group to Mission to Chartered Church. They also voted to have a special Thanksgiving offering to be received and divided equally between the Springfield, Massachusetts, and Albany, New York, Study Groups and the new campus ministry at Penn State.

Other decisions of the conference included: to have a district weekend in January on Faith, Fellowship and Order and on Christian Education, to be chaired by the Reverend Howard Wells and possibly held at Union Seminary in New York City; to replace the regular workshops at the February district conference with a special seminar on stewardship; to establish at the district level a scholarship fund for any person financially unable to afford the schooling required for licensing; to create a council of lay persons to advise Churches and Missions on how to set up and implement local by-laws; and to have Kathy Joyce assemble and distribute a women's newsletter to all the women's groups in the district.

The Northeast District voted to hold their February meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and their May meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL "IN THE VALLEY"

The second annual spiritual renewal at MCC in the Valley (North Hollywood) in mid-November marked the third anniversary of the second church in the city of Los Angeles.

The four evenings of worship were highlighted by a quartet of inspirational messages from Reverend Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC Moderator; Reverend Robert Cunningham, pastor of MCC Long Beach; Reverend Austin Amerine, Assistant Pastor of MCC San Francisco; and Reverend Howard Williams, pastor of MCC Palomar (Oceanside).

Reverend Randy Cypherd is pastor of MCC in the Valley. (Information from THE VALLEY PARACLETE, Nov 1975)

The Reverend Nancy Wilson has been elected pastor of MCC Detroit. Until recently, Nancy and her other half, the Reverend Heather Anderson, were co-pastors of MCC Worcester, Massachusetts.

Reverend Wilson will serve as the first full time pastor of the Detroit congregation. She succeeds Deacon Bob Fisher, who was assigned Worship Coordinator of the church following Reverend Tony Clemente's resignation on March 1st of this year. The congregation is praying for the speedy recovery of Deacon Bob, who had surgery two days after Reverend Wilson's election.

REV. NANCY WILSON ELECTED TO DETROIT PULPIT

"The Lord works for a reason," Bob writes. "Let us thank the Lord for that reason. My prayer is for strength to continue the Lord's work here at MCC Detroit and God's blessing on Nancy and Heather to help our church family grow and prosper."

MCC Detroit is averaging about 60 in attendance and has good rapport with the active *One in Detroit*, *Dignity*, *Integrity* and other organizations serving the gay community.

In accepting the pastorate, Reverend Wilson said, "I will continue to need your help in our ministry together." (Information from THE WAY of MCC Detroit)

MCC London celebrated its second anniversary on October 7th. The actual celebration was on Sunday, October 5th. Members of the Theatre Group put on a review during the coffee/tea hour to celebrate the event.

MCC LONDON CELEBRATES SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Reverend Tom Bigelow, pastor of MCC London and Coordinator of Church Extension in the United Kingdom, went to Brussels, Belgium, to meet with Christian gay leaders from Spain, France, Sweden and Belgium. After a week-long discussion with our Belgian friends, others came for the weekend meeting. These people represented small groups which are intensely national in outlook. However, they all seemed to want to be friends of MCC and to work with us as they could. We, too, expressed the desire for mutual support and cooperation.

David Langley replaces Jo McVay Abbott as Worhsip Coordinator of the Birmingham (England) Study Group. The group now numbers about fifteen persons and it is hoped that it will become a Mission in the next year. (Information obtained from a letter by Rev. Bigelow)

Reverend Lee Carlton, Coordinator of Church Extension in Australia and New Zealand, publishes an excellent monthly journal OUTREACH, telling news of the growing churches there and containing excellent feature articles.

Subscribing to this journal would be a good way for supporters of the MCC worldwide church to keep in touch with the Lord's work in the subcontinent. A donation of 50 cents per issue plus postage will help support

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES PUBLISH JOURNAL

the work of the church in Australia and New Zealand. Send to: Reverend Lee J. Carlton, OUTREACH, MCC Sydney, 3A Oxford St, Paddington, NSW 2021, Australia.

Dallas-born Frank Crouch has left his native city to serve the people of St. Louis as Assistant Pastor to Reverend Elder Carol Cureton.

Reverend Crouch, who holds a Masters Degree in Education from Drake University, pastored for several years in Foursquare Gospel churches and held administrative positions with that denomination.

REV. FRANK CROUCH IS NEW ASSISTANT PASTOR IN ST. LOUIS

After marching with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama, and participating in other Civil Rights struggles, Reverend Crouch became dissatisfied with "organized religion" and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Through the help of a Roman Catholic priest, he was able gradually to piece together his sexuality and Christian identity.

In 1972 he met Reverend John Gill in Atlanta and joined the staff of the Atlanta MCC where Reverend Gill was pastor.

Since that time, Reverend Crouch has served MCC congregations in Miami, Nashville and Dallas, with time off in Phoenix to recuperate from a heart attack. (Information from THE NEW LIGHT, MCC St. Louis, Nov 1975)

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT RE-ELECTS REV. PEDERSON

Reverend Donald Pederson was re-elected District Coordinator of the Southwest District for a two year term at the district conference held in San Diego in November.

Phil DeGrado, a member of MCC in the Valley, was elected District Secretary. Reverend Howard Williams was elected to succeed Reverend Victor Adams as District Treasurer on the recommendation of Reverend Adams.

There were 41 official delegates among the 300 in attendance.

Reverend Pederson concluded his report covering the previous ten months of his term with these remarks, "Our district needs a greater missionary vision. To accomplish this, it would be necessary for renewal and dedication on the part of ministers and lay persons alike." He reported he had traveled 12,000 miles in visiting the congregations of the district.

The district approved a budget of $8,154.21. Fifteen percent of this was allocated for prison ministry to be administered by a three person committee appointed by Reverend Pederson. The District Treasurer receives a $25 monthly stipend and the District Coordinator receives $75 monthly.

Reverend David Farrell, pastor of MCC San Diego, and Ms Jane Carl of Los Angeles, were elected to the Commission on Government, Structures and Systems.

The conference approved a resolution of the Social Action Workshop that encourages churches and members to support gay social service agencies in their community. It also expressed outrage at the harassment of gay Marines by Major General Carl Hoffman, Commandant of Camp Pendleton.

The conference recommended to the member congregations the proposal of the Christian Education Workshop that they become familiar with the correspondence courses of Samaritan Bible School, the Christian Sexuality Seminar, the Lenten Living Room Discussion Groups and the Exercise in Christian Living. (Information available from Reverend James Glyer, Minister of Education, MCC Los Angeles.)

The Racism Workshop won approval of the appointment of a Task Force by Reverend Pederson to write a cultural awareness program and provide consciousness raising for the ministers and provide a center for non-English language materials.

The Sexism Workshop obtained approval of the district to distribute a glossary of non-sexist terms and conduct a weekend consciousness raising session.

The Prison Ministry Workshop recommended seven proposals for the expansion and promotion of prison ministry, encouraging local jail ministry, financial support, the national prison ministry, ministers not serving as pastors to take on prison ministry, and exhorters and deacons to serve in this ministry.

Reverend Pederson was authorized to convene a district Faith, Fellowship and Order Commission.

The Handicapped Workshop asked the District Coordinator to appoint a Task Force to promote the concerns of handicapped people.

A District Choral was established. Deacons and exhorters of the district will meet annually to share, learn, pray and encourage each other.

FORT WORTH MCC OPENS COMMUNITY CENTER

Agape MCC of Fort Worth, Texas, has a new home. The new building was dedicated in late September. Pastor Ron Anderson writes in the October issue of THE OPEN DOOR, "It will never cease to amaze me what will happen when a few people reach out in faith. We are now in a new building and a lot of our dreams are coming true. I want to thank everyone who has pitched in and helped."

In the same issue of the Agape publication, there is a description of their new community center.

"We at Agape MCC believe that our social life and recreation is just as important as our spiritual life. You really can't separate the two. The community center is available to anyone and can be used. There are a lot of things going on already. There are movies, AA, and the performers for the upcoming production of *Boys in the Band* are doing their practicing there."

The Reverend Alice Jones and the Reverend Candy Naisbitt will be installed as co-pastors of MCC Salt Lake City, Utah, on December 7th, with Reverend Elders Richard Vincent and Freda Smith, and District Coordinator Reverend Gary Wilson, officiating.

SALT LAKE CITY PASTORS FEATURED IN NEWS

The co-pastors were spotlighted in a feature article in the Salt Lake City *Tribune*, in October. The article was very positive and helped further MCC's work in the Salt Lake City area.

The pastors were also guest speakers recently at the Campus Christian Center at the University of Utah and were featured on a panel at the School of Nursing at Bringham Young University.

George Cano, Church Clerk, reports that fifteen of the congregation's forty-five Members and Friends are women and that worship and social events have an average attendance of 40 to 50.

REV. BILL CHAPMAN PREACHES IN SEATTLE PULPIT

The Reverend Bill Chapman, pastor of MCC San Jose, California, introduced the Seattle MCC congregation to the Body Life Service on the occasion of his visit there.

The Seattle PARACLETE explained Body Life in this way: "It is based on Ephesians 4, Paul's plea for unity in the Church. Every person who is a true believer has received gifts and ministries from God. I cannot function without your ministry and you cannot function without mine. The church cannot function without our ministries and gifts working together. The church is the Body of Christ ... It depends on whether you are willing to minister and give the Body of Christ the benefit of the gifts God has given you." *(Ephesians 4:13-16)*

The Reverend Keith Davis, pastor of MCC Miami, has been awarded the 1975 David International Society Humanitarian Award.

The selection was made by a community wide ballot.

Other news from Miami, gleaned from the MCC MIAMI NEWS, Fall 1975, include:

MIAMI PASTOR RECEIVES AWARD

Pastor Davis will make a second appearance on the Joey Carr television talk and audience participation show on December 13th.

Miami MCC's fifth anniversary dinner was held at the Key Biscayne Golf Club with 60 in attendance. The anniversary celebration of the congregation coincided with the dedication of their new church home.

Two hundred worshippers were present as Reverend Elder John H. Hose preached for the first service in the new sanctuary. "The smiles on the faces of Miami's church members and friends served as a very rewarding experience as they walked into the renovated sanctuary and saw the beauty of the church for the first time." Reverend Donald Johnson, President of the National Council of Community Churches, was in attendance.

The Reverend Elder James Sandmire, UFMCC Treasurer and pastor of MCC Los Angeles, was guest speaker at the Southeast District Conference in mid-November. He was also facilitator for a workshop on church finances.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The conference, held at MCC Jacksonville (Florida), was attended by more than 120 persons at its business meetings, workshops, and worship services.

The entire delegation attended the workshop on church finances led by Elder Sandmire and the workshop on UFMCC By-Laws led by Reverend Elder John Hose. Other workshops and the business meeting followed.

The Reverend Keith Davis, pastor of MCC Miami, was re-elected District Coordinator. The Reverend Evan St. Ives of Orlando was re-elected Assistant District Coordinator; Ernest Richardson of Tampa was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer for a third term; and all officers received a standing ovation of appreciation. The conference adopted a resolution proposing minimum standards for Study Groups, Missions, and Chartered Churches.

A highlight of the District worship service on Sunday morning was the installation of newly Ordained and newly elected pastor of Jacksonville, the Reverend David R. Carden. Elders Hose and Sandmire participated in the ceremony. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Richardson, was reported to be "most spiritually uplifting and refreshing."

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE SEEN AS INSPIRATIONAL

"While attending the MCC Mid-Central District Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, I really felt a closeness with God during our worship services as we prayed together. It was a time when we could all be honest with one another and with ourselves in the presence of the Lord. I was confortable there and enjoyed meeting many new friends. This is an experience that everyone should share and it was wonderful to be part of it. The inspiration from the sermons by the Reverend Elders Troy Perry and Freda Smith was enough to know that none of us are alone any more. God will always be with us."

Jan Eberhardt, MCC St. Louis
THE NEW LIGHT, Nov 1975

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 23, 24, 1976
MINISTER'S CONFERENCE
Akron, Ohio

March 19, 20, 1976
MINISTER'S CONFERENCE
Estes Park, Colorado

August 10 - 15, 1976
GENERAL CONFERENCE
Washington, DC

August 15, 1976
AFFIRMATION 76
Rally in Washington, DC

notes

AN AMAZING PRIVILEGE

"To be a gay Christian today is an amazing privilege and opportunity. We have been called to show the rest of the church and the rest of the world, by our example and by our words, that God's love comes without strings or conditions; that this love is freely given to all men and women. For those who are willing to receive this task, *all* of life should be transformed. God is inviting you to walk along on a journey; filled with blessings, full of excitement and joy, where the difficulties you encounter will be but opportunities to experience God's love and faithfulness and power." (From THE WAY of MCC Boston by Edward T. Hougen, former pastor of Central Congregational Church, Orange, Massachusetts, and new Worship Coordinator of MCC Boston.)

BENEFACTOR PRESENTS GIFT TO UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP PRESS

A friend of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has granted the Publications Department of the denomination, the Universal Fellowship Press, a generous donation to be used as investment capitol.

It's well known that the Fellowship is lacking in the capitol necessary for the investments that would be necessary to put the Universal Fellowship Press into full production.

This donation is earmarked by the benefactor from Illinois for the re-printing of CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY, which is now virtually sold out of its first impression printing.

Reverend Richard Mickley, author and Director of Publications, indicated his gratitude: "This book has surpassed even my own optimism. Counseling centers in several states are using the book in their work. Numerous MCC bookstores have sold out of their first orders and have reordered. All of a sudden, we are almost out of print. We are so grateful to our friend, Keith, for making a second printing possible at this time. The six weeks seminar on the book in Los Angeles has been attended by 50 to 75 persons each week. Discussion leaders reported very moving experiences of life-changing realizations based on the ideas of the book."

NEWSWEEK GIVES GAYS FAVORABLE COVERAGE

The October 20th issue of NEWSWEEK Magazine is hailed for its favorable and sensitive coverage of gay persons in the news. THE NEW LIGHT of MCC St. Louis (Nov 1975) recommends this article and a book reviewed in the same issue ON BEING DIFFERENT, C. A. Tripp: McGraw-Hill, which deals with the myths concerning homosexuality.

AFRAID OF THE JOURNEY

Afraid of the Journey was the title of the well-received sermon delivered at the 1975 UFMCC General Conference in Dallas by the Reverend F. Jay Deacon, pastor of MCC Hartford, Connecticut.

The text of the sermon was printed in full in THE WAY published by Boston MCC, Vol. II, No. 4.

"MCC is an Exodus Church," it says. "It represents a new turn in the journey of the People of God. I hope we know that MCC represents a new turn in the road .. an Exodus .. The story of Exodus is probably the most important in the Hebrew Bible. We are an Exodus church. Our presence in the world means hope. We are called to pull off an Exodus, out of the captivity of the expectations of a society that is too small and a Christianity that has lost sight of the Shepherd. We have a story to tell, but we have nothing to tell anybody if we are afraid of the journey."

The full text can be obtained from THE WAY, MCC Boston, 131 Cambridge St, Boston, MA 02114.

CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY REVIEWED

The Universal Fellowship Publications Department notes with gratitude the lengthy and favorable review of Reverend Mickley's book, CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY, in THE GAY LUTHERAN by Howard Erickson. THE GAY LUTHERAN is published by Lutherans Concerned, Box 15592, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. It is an unusually newsy newsletter serving gay Lutherans of all synods.

please turn to page 20

† I just received IN UNITY. Fantastic. Just really great. I saw so many interesting pictures and wondered who they were and what the picture was about? Are you planning to put captions under the pictures? I am only disappointed that I cannot afford the $10 for the 12 issues per year.

Now for some good news on my part. I just received a new hearing on my case which means that I should be going home soon. I am so tremendously happy. I can't wait to tell Jim Lewey tomorrow when he comes down here.

Terry McLain 40949
Box 711
Menard, IL 62259

letters

† Congratulations on the October 15 issue of IN UNITY. I wanted to write to you personally to thank you for your editorial "Crusader or Communicator" which highlighted certain issues that are very important in the Northeast District. I hope that IN UNITY will continue to give these issues high priority in future editions and look forward to more detailed articles in each area.

We hope distribution can be speeded up. Thanks for the good content and format.

Enclosed are copies of the Boston publication in response to your request. Any of the material can be used with credit to the author and Boston MCC.

James Michael Hayes
Treasurer, MCC Boston

† I read with much interest and relived the Dallas experiences as I moved from article to article in the October issue. I must compliment you on the production. May God bless you as you continue this ministry of the written word. I anticipate receiving news of the UFMCC regularly in a readable, legible form.

Bill Smith, MCC New York

† Much praise is due the staff. We are all looking forward to the next issues knowing they will be a temnendous help for our members and friends to know more about how the Lord is using our Universal Fellowship in so many ways. We appreciate the work IN UNITY is doing for all of us.

The Reverend Keith Davis
Pastor, MCC Miami
SE District Coordinator

† I would like to congratulate you on the excellent October IN UNITY. As a former instructor in commercial printing, I feel qualified to comment of the excellent format, printing, and halftones in the issue. If I were grading IN UNITY there would be an "A" in every subject. It's really good to see such a professional church magazine come from our Fellowship, something to be proud of in every way.

Enclosed is our check.

William Kise, Chairperson,
Board of Directors,
MCC Columbia, SC

† We just received our IN UNITY shipment and we're all very pleased with this excellent issue. Keep up the good work! We'll see you in DC in 1976!

Rick Weatherly, Secretary
MCC Washington, DC

† I think the recent IN UNITY was excellent and we aim to use it more in the future for outreach.

The Reverend Don Borbe
Pastor, MCC Philadelphia

† First, KUDOS!! on the October issue of IN UNITY. It was excellent. We sold almost every copy the first night it was on the book table. I am proud to take it anywhere as a resource to educate people as to what is happening in MCC. Gratefully,

The Rev. Kenneth Martin
Pastor, Good Shepherd
Pasish MCC, Chicago

† Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! I was thrilled to see the new IN UNITY. Praise God!! This is what we need! I have enclosed the order of copies to be sent to us each month. I have also enclosed a copy of our last issue of the OPEN DOOR. You have been added to our mailing list and will receive a copy around the 15th of each month.

We are going to really push the IN UNITY throughout the Ft. Worth area. We are giving a complementary copy to each bar owner and organization leader in the area each month. Thank you for a beautiful way to help get the Good News of the Lord out to the community.

The Rev. Ron Anderson
Pastor, Agape MCC, Ft.Worth

Notes - continued

EVANGELIST ON TOUR

Reports keep coming in from all sections of the United States. "Reverend Paul VanHecke conducted a very successful spiritual renewal." (Salt Lake City.) "Brother VanHecke preached here (Detroit) last Sunday. Tears are unusual here, but they were plentiful that night. It was the first time I ever saw a physical healing at an MCC service. I'm sure there were more spiritual healings than I could see with my worldly eyes."

The seventy-eight year old evangelist is on the first of two nationwide preaching tours scheduled for this year. Scheduling can be arranged through his son, B. C. VanHecke, MCC Los Angeles, 1050 S. Hill St, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Evangelist - Rev. Paul VanHecke

ABZUG BILL STUCK IN SUBCOMMITTEE

The National Gay Civil Rights Bill (HR 5452), introduced by Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), is stuck in the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee. Representative Don Edwards (D-CA), chairperson of the subcommittee, is responsible for beginning the process that will move the bill onto the floor of the House, but as yet has not scheduled hearings.

The bill is an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It would prohibit "discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual preference" in public accommodations, public facilities, public education, federally assisted programs.

The bill is co-sponsored by 23 other members of Congress, including: Herman Badillo (NY), George Brown, Jr (CA), John Burton (CA), Shirley Chisholm (NY), Ronald Dellums (CA), Walter Fauntroy (DC Delegate), Donald Fraser (MN), Michael Harrington (MA), Elizabeth Holtzman (NY), Edward Koch (NY), Paul McCloskey (CA), Norman Mineta (CA), Parren Mitchell (MD), Robert Nix (PA), Charles Rangel (NY), Frederick Richmond (NY), Benjamin Rosenthal (NY), Patricia Schroeder (CO), Stephen Solarz (NY), Pete Stark (CA), Gerry Studds (MA), and Henry Waxman (CA).

Letters to the Edward's subcommittee would be helpful. Urge them to begin hearings. Their names are Rep. Don Edwards, Rep. Christopher Dodd, Rep. John Seiberling, Rep. Herman Badillo, Rep. Robert Drinan, Rep. Caldwell Butler, Rep. Thomas Kindness. They can be addressed: House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

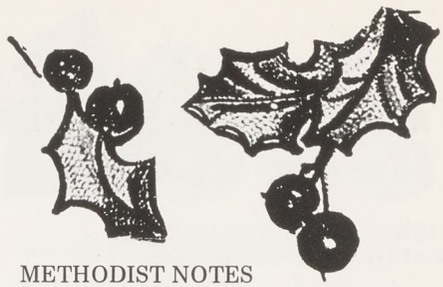
More exact information on addresses and any other assistance pertaining to legislative matters can be obtained directly from the Reverend Roy Birchard or Adam DeBaugh at the MCC Washington Office, Suite 210, 110 Maryland Av, NE, Washington, DC 20002 (Telephone: 202-543-2260).

SAMARITAN BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS WINTER TERM

Samaritan Bible School started its winter term of regularly scheduled evening classes on December 1st.

The following courses are being offered this quarter: *Sermon Preparation II* by Ms Karen Wheeler; *The Old Testament Prophets* by the Reverend Jeffrey Pulling; *UFMCC Polity and Programs* by the Reverend Richard Vincent; and an elective course, *Study Skills* by Ms Jerri Slifer.

"In its ever-increasing attempts to serve the whole Fellowship," says Reverend Pulling, Registrar, "Samaritan Bible School is now offering two correspondence courses. They are *The Life and Teachings of Jesus* and *The Old Testament Prophets.* The cost of these courses is $40 per student per course." For more information, contact Reverend Jeffrey Pulling, Registrar, Samaritan Bible School, POB 36277, Los Angeles, CA 90036.



METHODIST NOTES

"Church and Society," one of United Methodism's four general program boards, held its annual session in October.

"Church and society is charged with 'prime responsibility ... to implement the social creed.' This board can scarcely avoid dealing in controversy. Already mistrusted by many United Methodists because of its activities in connection with Kent State, Wounded Knee, and gun control (to mention only three examples), Church and Society did not enhance its image with proposals it adopted, modest in some members' view, asking General Conference to soften the church's present condemnatory attitude toward homosexuals." (NEWSCOPE, Nov 7, 1975)

Hottest topic among many social issue matters handled by the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church in its four day meeting ending October 26th was the proposed revision of the Social Principles statements relating to homosexuality.

The board recommended to General Conference striking from the UM Discipline the following: "We do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching" and recommends in its place: "We welcome all persons regardless of sexual orientation into the fellowship and membership of the United Methodist Church ..."

In a separate action, the board approved asking General Conference for a study of human sexuality with a $320,000 budget.

Publishing House nets $1.2 Million: The United Methodist Publishing House reported a net income of $1.2 Million for the fiscal year ending July 31, 1975. (NEWSCOPE, Oct 31, 1975)

—Photo by M. J. VILARDI

REINTRODUCTION OF HR 5452 was announced at a press conference organized by NGTF in Washington on March 25. Speakers included (left to right) NGTF Legislative Director Nathalie Rockhill, Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), Rep. Edward Koch (D-NY), and Executive Director Bruce Voeller. Also participating were Rep. Pete McCloskey (R-Cal), National Organization for Women President Karen DeCrow, Marilyn Haft of the American Civil Liberties Union, Dr. Fred Strassburger of the American Psychological Association, and Herb Gant of the American Psychiatric Association.

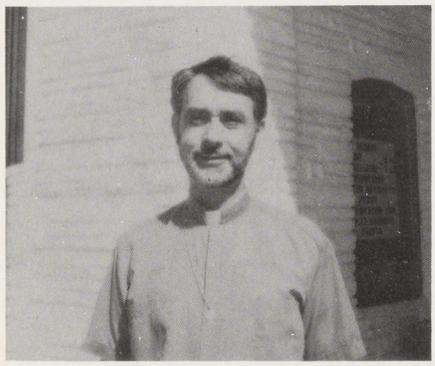
REVEREND VINCENT NAMED PRESIDENT OF BIBLE SCHOOL

The Board of Elders have appointed Trustees and officers of the Samaritan Bible School for the coming year through October 1976. Reverend Richard C. Vincent was appointed President, Ms Karen Wheeler was appointed Dean, Reverend Jeffrey Pulling was appointed Secretary, Ms Jerri Slifer was appointed Treasurer, and Reverend Richard Ploen was appointed Trustee to make a Board of Trustees consisting of five persons.

Upon stepping into the office of President, Reverend Vincent said: "The Samaritan Bible School has been in existence for a number of years and much has been accomplished, including the accumulation of an impressive library. The efforts of others in the past have established a foundation. Reverend Richard Ploen, founder of the school, has contributed a great deal to the growth of the school and we value his counsel on the Board of Trustees. It is now time to take a look at our path and goals to determine how the school may best serve the Fellowship. That is what we will be doing during the coming year. The Board of Trustees will be an active, working board. We will be having Trustee meetings every month in addition to monthly faculty meetings. We look forward to a great year."

Ms Karen Wheeler, who has been on the faculty and a Trustee in previous years, assumed the Dean's chair formerly held by Reverend Donald Pederson, Southwest District Coordinator and Assistant Pastor of MCC Los Angeles. Reverend Pulling and Ms Slifer are new to the Board of Trustees. Reverend Ploen has served in all offices of the Board of Trustees and on the faculty since the school was founded.

The Board of Trustees appointed Reverend Pulling as Registrar and a seven member faculty consisting of: Reverend Vincent, Reverend Ploen, Reverend Pulling, Reverend James Sandmire, Reverend Richard Mickley, Ms Wheeler, and Ms Slifer. All students will be assigned faculty advisers and the President of the student body will meet with the faculty during their monthly meetings.



The Rev. Elder Richard Vincent

REVEREND CURETON PROTESTS FILM

In a letter to the General Manager of a St. Louis TV station, Reverend Elder Carol Cureton, pastor of MCC St. Louis, states: "In my opinion, if shown, *Born Innocent* will not only turn out to be offensive to the civil rights of gay people, but will needlessly alarm the public...

"My first and primary objective as a Christian minister and pastor is to deal with the spiritual lives of my people, to teach and share with them the love of God.

"To minister effectively, I must be concerned with the totality of the person, with all the things that would stand between him/her and God, whether the factors are spiritual, physical, emotional, or social. One of the things most affecting the ability of a person in the homophile community to worship and serve God is the socialization process which teaches that homophiles are sick, sinful, criminal, and to be feared as persons who lurk in the shadows ready to attack or rape or seduce. It is the subtle and erroneous reinforcement of such social 'values' that prompts me to object to the *Born Innocent* program.

"Alienation from self, from society, from one's God results from the erroneous presentation of the homophile community by the mass media.." (Condensed from THE NEW LIGHT, MCC St. Louis, Nov 1975)

RELATIONSHIPS AN OPINION

RELATIONSHIPS: AN OPINION is a short but very meaningful pamphlet describing some factors which, in the opinion of the author, make love-relationships work.

Differing from the opinion advanced by Dr. Norman Pittenger in his address to the MCC General Conference in Dallas this year, Reverend Richard Vincent points out: "If one reserves self only for the chosen partner, only good can come from it."

Reverend Vincent explores various alternatives to a "monogamous relationship," and points out qualities of a proper relationship while recognizing that there "are various forms of relationships, all possibly valid for those involved," but he writes that he prefers to "present for consideration a discussion on the values of a monogamous (one to one) relationship."

The pamphlet is available from The Universal Fellowship Press, Box 36277, Los Angeles, CA 90036. For individual copies, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ten cents donation. Rates are available for quantity orders for bookstores.

order to approach the holiday -- our friends and associates, gay or otherwise, cannot but begin to see the Day and what it means differently.

We can, as Christians, have many of the traditional trappings and customs of Christmas. All of which we can enjoy. Yet, those who want to have a Christian celebration of Christmas must have as a prelude and as an integral part of all this a serious and dedicated approach to the Day we use to celebrate God's coming to us in human form.

If we truly want the joys and benefits that Christmas promises, we will prepare to accept them and live them. What are these joys and benefits? The angels told the shepherds. The angels still tell us. We join in telling others: **"Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth to people of good will!"** *(Luke 2:14)*

... and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if anyone alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One! Dickens

GALPIN Ford

the dealer who cares

For your special deal on a new Ford automobile,
truck, recreation vehicle or used car

CALL — Joe Thompson (member of MCC)
(213)787-3800

15505 Roscoe Blvd., Sepulveda, CA 91343

LAMBDA The perfect gift

for yourself
or that very special friend

A unique international symbol for gay freedom;
for sexual liberation;
for justice and enlightenment
as well as for a needed balance
in acceptance of differences by and within all humanity

Each pin or pendant is a fine quality casting
in the classic Greek design
plated with a brilliant gold or silver finish

PINS		PENDANTS (with chain)	
Silver	$3.00	Silver	$4.50
Gold	$3.50	Gold	$4.75

ACTUAL SIZE 1" x 3/4"

An Illustrated Poster of A History of the Lambda
Printed on fine quality parchment paper
and suitable for framing $3.00 each

Make Check or Money Order Payable To:

MICHAUX & CO. Dept. M
256 S. Robertson Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA. 90211

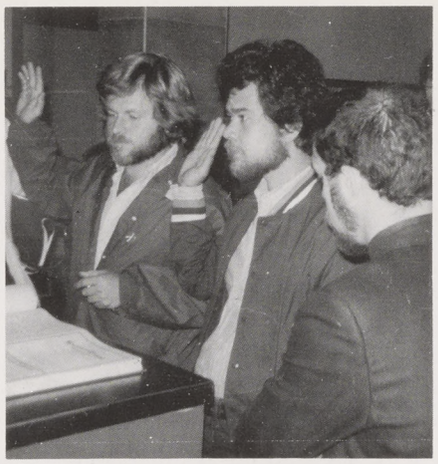
MCC member fights deportation

MCC Member, Anthony Sullivan, who won the support of the MCC General Conference in 1975, is not only fighting deportation, but is now being subjected to blatant discrimination.

On November 29, 1975, Richard Adams, Tony's spouse, received an insulting form letter from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service denying his petition that Tony be recognized as a spouse of a United States citizen.

Tony and Richard were granted a legal license to marry in April of 1975 by the County Clerk at Boulder, Colorado. They were then legally married on April 21st by the Reverend Freda Smith and the Reverend Robert Sirico.

On a form headed *United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service*, Los Angeles, Tony and Richard recieved this official decision just as IN UNITY was going to press. The form stated: "Decision: Upon consideration, it is ordered that your visa petition filed on April 28, 1975, for classification of Anthony Corbett Sullivan as the spouse of a United States citizen be denied for the following reasons: You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots."



Tony Sullivan and Richard Adams
photos by Ron Wilson

Reverend James Sandmire, Pastor, read the letter to the Los Angeles church on Sunday, November 30th. The next day Richard and Tony held a news conference. The gay community was outraged. A demonstration was planned for Sunday, December 7th, at the Federal Building in Los Angeles, the scene of an earlier demonstration on June 10th in behalf of Tony and Richard. The media picked up the story nationwide.

On Thursday, December 4th, United States Senator Alan Cranston of California, issued the following statement to a press conference held in Washington: "Today, at my request, officials of the US Immigration and Nationalization Service met with my staff in my Washington office to discuss the procedure of the Service in announcing its intended deportation of an Australian homosexual, Anthony Sullivan. During the session, my staff informed the Service of my strong feeling that the handling of this matter raises not only a question of taste but of whether intolerant and bigoted persons made policy judgements that led to the deportation decision. In response to my concerns, the Service has assured me that it will initiate a full and complete investigation of all actions that led to the deportation decision and the manner of its announcement. Further, the Service has assured me that steps will be taken to determine the person or persons responsible for this ugly and insulting characterization of gay persons and that appropriate disciplinary action will be taken."

IN UNITY publishes this article in support of Tony and Richard in accordance with the resolution passed by the General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches last August: "Be it resolved that this General Conference go on record in support of the equal rights of Anthony Sullivan and his spouse, Richard Adams, to the pursuit of happiness."

Richard is an American citizen. Tony is an Australian citizen. When they learned that the laws of the State of Colorado at that time did not exclude same-sex marriages, they obtained a license and were legally married. Then they went to the Immigration Service and filed the petition to have Tony classified as the spouse of an American citizen, thus making him eligible for eventual citizenship and some 300 other benefits accorded spouses of American citizens. Of course, the continuation of their life and home together is the benefit they seek first and foremost.

Richard and Tony will appeal the decision. Senator Cranston has arranged a meeting with the Attorney General of the United States to discuss the matter.

Tony became a member of MCC Los Angeles as the result of a meeting with Reverend Perry in 1971 while he was on a tour of the United States in behalf of the Anglican Dean of Perth, who is now Bishop of Ballaret in Australia. He was studying for the priesthood at the time, but he wanted to meet Reverend Perry, whom he had heard of in his native country through the media.

"The first time I went to MCC Los Angeles," Tony recalls, "A couple was celebrating their 28th anniversary and their affection for each other made a deep impression on me. I knew that's the way I wanted it for Richard and me."

Following his meeting with Reverend Perry, Tony experienced what he calls "a catharsis of faith," and after seeking counsel from several wise Anglicans with the result of what he calls "rejection," he gave up his studies for the Anglican priesthood.

Richard and Anthony now live in Los Angeles and are active members of MCC Los Angeles. Friends have organized the Anthony Sullivan Defense League. Contributions can be sent to Frank Zerilli at Box 36277, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Richard Frank Adams

DECISION

Upon consideration, it is ordered that your visa petition filed on April 28, 1975, for classification of Anthony Corbett SULLIVAN as the spouse of a United States citizen be denied for the following reasons: *You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots.*

Sincerely yours,

District Director

Rev. Sirico, Richard, Tony, Rev. Smith

TAKE THE RISK
OUT OF YOUR LIFE
Call Bob and Mike for all of
your insurance needs

Auto, Tenant and Homeowner's
packages .. Life and Disability
Business Insurance of all kinds
Retirement Income
Taylored for YOU!

We have been serving the gay
community for years .. and
we are proud of our many
satisfied customers

ROYAL INSURANCE AGENCY
16055 Ventura Bl,
Encino, CA 91436

Valley: (213) 981-9080
Los Angeles: (213) 872-1062
Outside LA Call Collect

TYPESETTING

THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
PRESS

can meet all your typesetting and layout needs.

Send your correct copy and suggested layout to us

Allow at least five working days plus mailing time.

IBM Electronic "Selectric" Composer

Send to
Universal Fellowship Press
POB 36277
Los Angeles, CA 90036

POSTERS AND FLYERS . . . . . .
. . . . . TICKETS . . . . . .
BROCHURES, BOOKS, BOOKLETS
ETC . . . . NEWSLETTERS . . . . .ETC

Back Issues NEEDED

IN UNITY is receiving requests from seminary libraries and other institutions around the country for back issues.

Please send any spare copies you can find. Back issues right up to October 1975 are needed.

Send to: IN UNITY
POB 36277
Los Angeles, CA 90036

IN UNITY

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO

IN UNITY

Enclosed, please find a $10.00 donation

to the work of the Universal Fellowship. (Includes 1st Class Postage)

Please send the next 12 monthly issues to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY_____ **STATE**_____**ZIP**

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches

P.O.BOX 36277, LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY

Richard R. Mickley

— The First Book To Be Published By —

The Universal Fellowship Press

At your local MCC bookstore: $2.95

- This book should be in the hands and in the homes of every MCC member and friend.
- "I hope you will read and understand what this book is saying."
The Rev. Troy D. Perry